



MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

For the Period of:	May 2013				
Name of the Grantee Organization:	Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)				
Project Title:	Strengthening Institutional Coordination and Regional Structured Grain Trading System through Integrated Regional Market Information Systems, Policy and Reduced Barriers to Trade.				
Grant Agreement Number:	EAG-STA-012-029	Project Startup Date:	Nov.2012	Project end date:	June.2013
Project Location:	Countries: Kenya, Uganda , Tanzania , Rwanda and Burundi				

1. Introduction

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the period of May 2013 covering the activities implemented under USAID-COMPETE funding support. The Grant which was signed on 20th November 2012 is aimed at building the capacity of grain stakeholders to participate in structured grain trade in the region while working towards attaining the following specific objectives:

- Facilitate institutional strengthening to enable EAGC to deliver services to its stakeholders across the region
- Build the capacities of grain warehouse keepers and graders to improving the efficiency of grain handling and marketing operations.
- Support the implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards at national levels
- Build sustainability of RATIN by engaging with other MIS service providers
- Maintain the development of the regional Food Balance Sheet

2. Summary of Activities accomplished in May 2013

a) RATIN Applications Merged

EAGC merged all the RATIN applications i.e. RTVT data collection, market information data collection and the informal cross border data collection applications. Now there is one application that has interfaced all the three applications making it easy to manage and maintain.

The RATIN website was also adjusted to accommodate additional fields for more grain commodities following the feedback and suggestions received from the users. RATIN now will be reporting on 12 commodities up from the initial 6. The added commodities are paddy rice, assorted pulses, ground nuts and sunflower.

b) EAGC holds National Meetings in Mombasa and Nairobi to review the Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS)

EAGC, together with the Cereal Millers Association (CMA, held CEOs breakfast meetings in Mombasa and

Nairobi to review the EAC Regional Food Balance Sheet process. The meetings were held on 23rd and 30th May 2013 in Mombasa and Nairobi respectively. The meetings were attended by representatives from Milling Industry, WFP and grain trading companies among others attended. The representatives from ACTESA who are planning to roll out a similar project in the Southern Africa region attended the Nairobi Meeting. The objectives of the meetings were:

- To update the industry on the current status of the EAC RFBS process
- To highlight the roles of the various stakeholders (private sector, government, relief agencies and other partners) in the process
- To discuss the opportunities and challenges with data provision and how to resolve them
- To determine the way forward and mode of support to the EAC Regional Food Balance Sheet process

At the end of the two meetings, the Industry players agreed to the following resolutions in support of the EAC Regional Food Balance Sheet process:

- That the Cereal Millers Association (CMA) will lend support to the RFBs process through submission of data and participation in the national Food Balance sheet data validation consultative committees on behalf of its members
- That Millers will submit their stock data through the Cereal Millers Association
- That EAGC and the other partners involved in the RFBS process will ensure data confidentiality
- That EAGC, COMPETE and CMA will agree on the mechanism to facilitate CMA's data submission
- That EAGC will facilitate access to the RFBS information by stakeholders
- That EAGC will work to make the EAC RFBS process more inclusive to include among others the Cereal Growers Association (CGA), Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP) and the Kenya Association of Feed Manufacturers among others.
- Stakeholders will work together to improve the data collection methodology for accuracy, authenticity, and reliability.
- That EAGC will put in place an effective mode of communication to keep all the actors updated on the RFBS progress

c) EAGC Market Monitoring

During the month of May 2013, EAGC monitors collected daily market information in all 29 internal markets. The prices were disseminated through RATIN.

d) Border Monitoring

The informal cross border trade flows during the month of May 2013 were also monitored, on a daily basis, in all the 5 border points that EAGC engaged the monitors. The data collected were transmitted to and disseminated through RATIN.

e) EAGC Market Analysis

Based on the data and the market intelligence received from the market monitors, EAGC compiled a report on the commodity price trends and some of the factors that influence the changes in the market. The report was shared with the EAGC members and other stakeholders. The report can be accessed on RATIN on the link below;

<http://ratin.net/index.php/ratin-tools/downloads/finish/3-trade-news/124-eagc-ratin-market-analysis-report-for-may-2013>

The data collected from the border points during the period Jan-April, 2013 were also analyzed in May 2013 and disseminated to members and other stakeholders. The report on the Informal Cross border trade low can be accessed from the link:

http://ratin.net/administrator/index.php?option=com_jdownloads&task=download&cid=122

f) Development of STS Trainers Guide

Following the finalization of STS handbook-2nd Edition in April, a scope of work for the development of Trainers Guide was developed. The Guide is expected to provide instructions on the use of STS Handbook.



Terms of Reference
(TOR)Trainer's Guide-

3. Other Non-Grant activities completed

i) Review of Kenya WRS Bill Finalized

EAGC in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and IFC held a 2 day workshop to finalize the Warehouse Receipts System (WRS) Bill in readiness for submission to the new Cabinet for endorsement and adoption. The workshop took place at the Crowne Plaza on May 20 - 21st 2013.

The meeting brought together the WRS Steering Committee members and the representatives of the financial institutions & warehouse operators to ensure all views are captured following the last consultative meeting and subsequent revisions.

ii) Launch of EAGC Agribusiness Expo Uganda

The EAGC Agribusiness Expo 2013 for Uganda was officially launched on Tuesday, 21st May 2013 in Kampala. This was during the Press Briefing & Stakeholders Meeting that was presided over by Mrs. Patricia Ejalu -Deputy Executive Director, Quality in Agribusiness -UNBS. The launch which was well covered by media houses was attended by potential exhibitors and this year's Expo sponsors including ABI Trust, Agri-Profocus and Engineering Solutions Ltd.

The annual event, now in its third year, has been a dedicated means of showcasing the new technologies, innovations and agribusiness models that would help existing agribusinesses become more efficient, sustainable and profitable. This year's Expo whose theme is "Future of Agribusiness; Quality-the Key to Competiveness and Commercialization" will see over 30 exhibitors and approximately 5000 farmers take part, up from 28th to 29th June 2013.

iii) EAGC host Rwanda Grain Stakeholders Forum

EAGC with the support from USAID Rwanda Post Harvest Handling services Project (PHHS), organized and conducted the Rwanda Grain Stakeholder Forum that was held on Tuesday, 28th May 2013, at the Lemigo Hotel. The objective of the forum was to bring together Grain and Cereals stakeholders to support private sector participation in development of the industry, introduce EAGC and its member services to promote the EAGC's role and capacities in Rwanda and develop partnership among grain stakeholders and to establish a platform to engage grains stakeholders in policy and advocacy discussions thus contribute to growth of the Sector in Rwanda

and in the region.

More than 30 grain value chain actors representing private sector, government and development partners attended the forum that was aimed at:

- Identify and create an avenue for joint policy and advocacy dialogue between the private and public sector in Rwanda.
- A structured platform for the private sector participation and engagement through EAGC Rwanda Chapter.
- Agree and prioritize EAGC program delivery to Rwanda grain stakeholders, through the EAGC Rwanda chapter.

g) Fumigation training in Tanzania –Dar es Salaam & Arusha

EAGI in partnership with USAID-CNFA-Farmer to Farmer program rolled-out a 2-day training workshops on Fumigation Practices and Use of Fumigants in Dar es Salaam and Arusha. The two trainings were held on 26th-27th May and 30th-31 May 2013 in Dar es Salaam and Arusha respectively. A total of 25 trainees were taken through theory and practical sessions in a warehouse setting. The training was aimed at lowering the grain storage losses, a big proportion of which is attributable to insect infestation of grains while in storage and this decreases grain supply to the market leading to food shortages and high food prices. Proper and professional fumigation of grains while in storage has been identified as one of the measures that if taken and applied correctly would create the difference that makes a difference in preservation of food.

4. Major activities planned for the next month (June 2013):

- i) Prepare for training workshops on EAC standards in Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda
- ii) Participate in EAGC Agribusiness Expo in Uganda and Tanzania
- iii) Hold NFBS meetings in Nairobi and Mombasa
- iv) Hold NFBS Committee meetings in Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda
- v) Participate in regional RFBS in Arusha
- vi) Continuous market and border monitoring

5. Status of the Implementation of Activities to Date:

Project Activities	Expected Deliverables	Due Date	Achievements in May 2013
Activity # 1.0 EAGC Institutional Strengthening			
Support COMPETE-hired consultant to develop EAGC stakeholder engagement & membership development strategy	• Completed EAGC stakeholder engagement and membership development strategy	Jan-Mar 2013	• The strategy has not been developed however, two consultants were identified in April and their CVs submitted to COMPETE for further discussion on the engagement
	• Membership development tracker to facilitate monitoring new members and member retention	Jan-Mar 2013	• Done
Design and	• Create a document that captures	March-May 2013	• Done

produce EAGC marketing materials to capture success and strengths and present EAGC value proposition to members and potential EAGC Members.	the “Top 5 reasons to join EAGC”		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a document highlighting the EAGC’s policy interventions/successes 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create EAGC RATIN promotional document 	March-May 2013	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an RTVT promotional document Create a documenting EAGC’s STS programs, highlights and successes 	March-May 2013	
Activity # 2.0 Strengthening of Structured Trading Systems			
Finalize the revision of the Second Edition of the EAGC STS Handbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final document approved by COMPETE, EAGC and other partners before printing 	Feb.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done EAGC is planning to launch the book the book during the 5th Grain Summit in Mombasa in October.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250-500 copies of approved STS Handbook printed 	Feb.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending awaiting the print version
Revise the STS Handbook to include participant testing material to ensure quality control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing materials developed for each training module 	Jan-Feb 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Scope of Work for the consultant to develop the guide was done and submitted to COMPETE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250-500 copies of STS Testing Guide printed 	Jan-Feb 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending
Conduct two trainings (one in each country) for warehouse operators and graders in Uganda and Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete development of simplified storage and warehouse operators guide book 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 copied of Simplified Warehouse operators guide book printed 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit a roster of skilled trainers in each country to support the training effort and lists of in-country trainers and target participants 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 25 participants trained in each country 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
Support the consistent national implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards.			
Attend the regional EAC standards workshop scheduled for October in Entebbe and the meeting of the East African Standards Committee and Sectoral Council of Ministers scheduled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on the Private Sector’s position on harmonized standards during the EAC Standards workshop in Entebbe. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit the position paper on for the private sector on Moisture Content to the East Africa Standards 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done

for November 2012	Committee in Entebbe.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver private sector opening remarks at the EAS Committee meeting and Sectoral Council of Ministers in November 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
Support COMPETE in the development of training and awareness/promotional materials on standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a list of local technical advisors willing to participate in the development of awareness materials 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communication material/posters on standards were developed by COMPETE and they are still under review by EAC. EAC Grading Guide is being developed by COMPETE. It will be reviewed by EAGC once a draft is availed
Attend meetings to develop materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop country-specific lists of potential participants 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending- awaiting finalization of communication materials and EAC grading guide by COMPETE
Organize and conduct three trainings in Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct trainings for at least 90 private-sector graders representing producers, traders and processors trained in the EAC standards 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending- the trainings will be held once the grading manual and awareness materials are completed.
Provide country-level support to COMPETE to identify potential national implementing partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact lists for potential partners submitted to COMPETE. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
Participate in COMPETE-organized cross-border trade forums at Malaba, Busia, Isebania, Namanga and Oloitokitok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate private sector (traders) participation. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit target/attendance lists to COMPETE. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in five cross-border trade forums and present EAGC services 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending
Activity # 3.0: Strengthening of Generation, Dissemination and Coordination of Market Intelligence			
Expand the RATIN Network in Eastern Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RATIN upgraded to enable consolidate maps to be uploaded. 	Dec.12-Jan.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GIS data for storage facilities in East Africa provided by USAID COMPETE and CARANA Corporation harmonized 	Dec.12-Jan.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data verification and validation of more than 700 locations across East Africa is completed and GIS mapping datasheets to fill the gaps 	Dec.12-Jan.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done

	reviewed.		
EAGC leads the registration/training of private sector contributors to National FBS, coordinate quarterly meetings and ensure data upload monthly /quarterly			
EAGC will work with COMPETE to identify, register and train new private sector RFBS contributors in the 5 EAC countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain a country-level tracker that shows all potential and existing private sector contributors and the status of their engagement 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide monthly country reports showing status of targets and contributors 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports submitted to COMPETE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly follow-up with all registered contributors to ensure consistent data uploading 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In May 2013, EAGC held meetings with Rwanda Stakeholders including -Ministry of Agriculture, SS Bakhresa and Rwanda Grain & Cereals Corporation (RGCC) to mobilize them to contribute data in the national FBS.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of Private Sector Data on the regional food balance sheet submitted and presented in Arusha 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned for 19th June 2013
EAGC country offices organize, facilitate and provide secretarial services for two quarterly National Food Balance Sheet Committee meetings in the 5 EAC countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2013 NFBS meetings held in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi to validate quarterly balance sheet. Meeting report with data summaries submitted to COMPETE. 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2013 NFBS meetings in Kenya Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi to validate quarterly balance sheet. Meeting report with data summaries submitted to COMPETE. 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
Finalize the roll out of Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking System and link to RATIN to support EAGC Members in relevant and credible Market Intelligence.			
RTVT rolled out to 12 warehouses/storage facilities, operators equipped with smart phones and trained in use of the application and uploaded to RATIN and pushed out to users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize warehouse/storage facility evaluation form 	Dec.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final RTVT enrolment form completed 	Dec.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop tracker for potential and participating warehouses 	Dec.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracker updated monthly and submitted with monthly grant report` 	Dec.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTVT introductory letter sent to all target warehouses 	Dec.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTVT Users Manual for use by Warehouse Operators 	Dec.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending- the User Manual was a deliverable by the IT consultant engaged by COMPETE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTVT application and RATIN interface finalized and develop RTVT user manual- Dec 	Dec.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending- deliverable by IT Consultant;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country staff evaluate target warehouses and enrol successful facilities 	Dec.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equip and train 12 warehouses/storage facilities and monitor uploaded data 	Dec.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
Improve EAGC Market Analysis, Capabilities , develop systems /templates for weekly reports for EAGC Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize weekly market analysis report template 	Nov.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize weekly report development process document that details the steps for country office submissions 	Nov.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending
Maintain 15 market and border monitors submitting daily price data to RATIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit list of 15 highest priority markets (to include border markets in the region –Oct 	Oct.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire, train and equip 7 additional market monitors (to complement the 8 existing monitors)-Nov-Dec 	Oct.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country staff provide spot checks/ supervision and reports on data quality 	Oct.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous exercise; ongoing.

EAGC Secretariat